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D1  
A1

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. A tip section for customizing a cue stick, the tip section comprising:
- (a) a single-piece tapered hollow tube having a first end and a second end, the tube having an exterior providing a substantially smooth surface, the tube having a wall capable of self-support;
  - (b) a first attachment site adjacent to said first end for connecting said tube to a cue tip; and
  - (c) a second attachment site adjacent to said second end for connecting said tube to a butt section.
10. A tip section for customizing a cue stick, the tip section comprising:
- (a) a single-piece tapered hollow, chrome-plated steel tube having a first end and a second end, a hollow tube having a first end and a second end, the tube having a wall capable of self-support;
  - (b) a first attachment site adjacent to said first end for connecting said tube to a cue tip;
  - (c) a second attachment site adjacent to second end for connecting said tube to a butt section;
  - (d) an augmenting element securable to an interior position within the hollow tube, said augmenting element being selected from the group comprising: a weight and a stiffening member;
- wherein placement of said augmenting element in the interior position within the hollow tube is determined by a locator,
- wherein placement of said augmenting element tailors an operational characteristic of the hollow tube.
11. A kit for customizing a tip section of a cue stick, the kit comprising:
- (a) a single-piece tapered hollow tube having a first end and a second end, the tube having an exterior providing a substantially smooth surface, the tube having a wall capable of self-support;
  - (b) a first attachment site adjacent to said first end for connecting said tube to a cue tip; and